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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

TO : 25.50

20.4. 1952

Nr. 142/52

FROM : 50

SUBJECT: Contact to Slovakian emigration - group DURCANSKY

It is requested to approve that contact be established to the
DURCANSKY -group of the Slovakian emigration.

The approach should be done with the following formulation: German
intelligence organization with American support.

50 plans to send agents to Slovakia "with national approval" who in
their intelligence activities are exclusively led by the org.

All II- (sabotage) possibilities resulting from this connection will
be handed on to 60.

For details see annexed memo.

Incl.

DURCANSKY

18 April 1952

Subject: Co-operation Org.-DURCANSKY.

Contents: A) Slovakian Emigration - structure , assignments

- B) SNRVZ and SOV ; SIDOR and DURCANSKY
- C) Possibilities of a co-operation with SNRVZ and SOV
- D) Equivalents offered by the org. in return.
- E) Final comment

A)

The Slovakian emigration after 1945 is divided into two groups:

- I) Emigration in connection with the Soviet-Czech advance in Spring 1945;
- II) Emigration after the riot in February 1948; the numerous "pioneers" of Bolshevism in the CSR belong to this group which played a decisive role in 1945 when the Bolsheviks came into power but who later-on got into the bad books of the central ^{authorities} ~~offices~~ steered by Moscow.

To group I belong:

- a) The Slovak National Council abroad - Slovenska Narodna Rada v Zahranici (SNRVZ) - SIDOR/group; important representatives: Dr. Karol SIDOR, Dr. Konstantin CULEN, Dr. Josef KIRSCHBAUM, Dr. Josef PAUCO, Prof. Matus CERNAK (representative for Germany). Residing in Canada.
- b) The Slovakian liberation committee - Slovensky Oslobovaci Vytbor (SOV) - DURCANSKY group; important representatives: Prof. Dr. Ing. Stanislav HUGAN, Prof. Dr. Stanislav MECIAR, Prof. Dr. POLAKOVIC, Lt. Col. LEDNICKY, Dipl. Ing. Igor BAZOVSKY, Dr. Ctibor POKORNY (representative for Germany). Residing in Argentina.

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- c) The National Committee for a Free Slovakia - Narodni Vybor pre Oslobodene Slovensko (NVOS) - KRAJCOVIC-group; Most important representative: Dr. V. Stefan KRAJCOVIC; has only a few followers. Residing in USA.
- d) Centrum Cath. in Exteris - being organized upon initiative of the Vatikan. Leader: Pater BOTEK. Residing Vatikan City.

To group II belong:

- a) Group of Slovakian politicians within the Council of a Free Cecho-Slovakia - Rada Svobodneho Ceskoslovenska (RSC). Since 1951 group has tendency to split up which was avoided for a short while through American intervention. Most important representatives of Slovakian nationality: Dr. Stefan OSUSKY, Dr. JuraJ SLAVIK; Dr. Jan PAFANEK, Dr. Fedor HODZA as well as the gentlemen TIGRID, KVETKO and KOCVARA - known through their co-operation with radio Free Europe.
- b) LETTRICH-group named after the former first president of the Democratic party in Slovakia (one of the parties permitted by the Sovjets in Slovakia after 1945), Dr. Josef LETTRICH. This group is connected with the Council of a Free Czechoslovakia. LETTRICH himself has a leading position within this "Council"; several leading members of the "Council" are also working in his organization: Dr. Jraj SLAVIK, Dr. Jan PAULINI-TOTH, Dr. J. FRANEK.

Group I is all for a Free Slovakia; either within the scope of an independent State or within a federation of states of an All-European or Central European structure. The group is strongly against Bolshevism which it considers to be the worst enemy of European life. After the experiences made in the past it is also against the so-called "Czechoslovakism" and a joint state with the Czechs.

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Group II has a number of important representatives (e.g. Dr. LETTRICH, Dr. KOCVARA) who are considered to be pioneers of Bolshevism. The fast and unconditional Bolshevikisation of the state and whole administration is due to the influence and readiness of numerous men of this group co-operating with Moscow.

B)

Of the two emigration groups only No. I has good standing within the Slovakian people at home. It is also representing the claims of the whole people towards other countries (according to cautious estimates no more than 15% of the Slovakian population belong to the groups following Moscow and Prague).

Group II is being rejected by practically the whole Slovakian people as the Slovaks representing this group are held responsible for the conditions in their country.

a) The SIDOR/group - the Slovakian National Council abroad (SNRVZ)

The chief of the SNRVZ is the former ambassador to the Vatican, Karol SIDOR.

The latter was deputy prime minister of the Prague government between the Munich agreement (September 1938) and the proclamation of the independent Slovakian State (March 1939).

In 1950 SIDOR came from Rome to Canada. During a 3 months' stay in the USA (propaganda tour to his Slovakian countrymen living in the US) he was successfully

attacked by the former Czechoslovakian ambassador in Washington Dr. Juraj SLAVIK, who called him a "Nazi-collaborator". The American democratic member of Congress, (Arthur KLEIN) thereupon demanded that he be expelled. Through intervention of the chairman

of the Slovakian league in the US, Dr. HLETKO, SIDOR was allowed to stay.

However, his permission to stay in the States was not extended, his movement was not recognized there.

SIDOR wants to create an independent Slovakia; the frame for the independence might be a Central- or All-European confederation. Parts of his followers who joined his movement during the last months are also in favor of the possibility

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that Slovakia remain a member of the Czecho-Slovakian state community.

The various forces working within the SNRVZ were leading to heavy fights for supremacy in the command.

SIDOR comes from the Catholic side; being a student of HLINKA this was the direction he had to follow.

In order to extend his political operational basis he established contact to the so-called Czecho-Slovakian emigration groups of 1945 (former Czecho-Sl. agrarians, former Czech Christian-Socialists, former Social-democrats).

In the same intention he established contact to various emigrees of the year 1948 (exponents of the LETTRICH-group). However, these new connections are being watched with a certain alarm by the followers of his National Council.

Within the Slovakian people at home his political negotiations which are based on tactical considerations are neither understood nor accepted as there the emigrees of 1948 are held chiefly responsible for the Bolshevization of Slovakia. There are more and more indications to the effect that the former Minister and Slovakian ambassador in Berlin Matus CERNAK is going to take over the command of the SNRVZ.

b) The DURCANSKY/group - The Slovakian liberation committee (SOV).

The lawyer Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY is a university professor and an excellent expert in international law. His political work (attempts to obtain Slovakian autonomy) goes back as far as the beginning of 1930. At the time he founded the so-called NASTUP-circle which chiefly comprised members of Catholic student-groups. Through the autonomist movement DURCANSKY made his way into the general political life. In March 1939 he publicly interceded in favor of the autonomous Slovakian State and became minister of Justice and for Foreign Affairs.

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In 1940 he had a quarrel with RIBBENTROP; through his refusal to follow instructions from Berlin his relations to the competent Reich-authorities were broken off (Conference on the Obersalzberg with Hitler and Ribbentrop -August 40)

Dr. DURCANSKY was almost arrested and interned. Since 1941 he was living - politically active only in the background - as lawyer in Bratislava.

In his political work he is less inclined to compromise than SIDOR. His organization - SOV - is therefore more complete and centralized. His position in his Slovakian homeland is not disputed because he refuses to establish connections to the emigres of 1948. There is no fight for supremacy within his liberation committee (SOV). His political activities are concentrated on the liberation of the Slovakian people from the Bolshevik clasp and from Czech supremacy. His political claim: Autonomy or a solution on a European-confederate basis; no joint state with the Czechs.

It is wrong and erroneous to suspect SIDOR and DURCANSKY of being Nazi-collaborators; this suspicion was caused by a very clever propaganda of Czecho-Slovakian circles which are naturally against the Slovaks leaving the Czecho-Slovakian State Union. SIDOR practically never negotiated with German authorities.

DURCANSKY ~~had to pay~~ for his upright and independent attitude by giving up his position and seriously endangering his personal safety.

Both have stressed the necessity of a friendly co-operation of the Slovakian and the German people due to their position as neighbors.

The emigration groups indicated under c) and d) do not belong into the scope of our study as they have only a few followers at home and as they have no connections to their homeland (in spite of maintaining the contrary e.g. C)

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c)

The possibilities of a co-operation with this Org. on the IS-sector are as follows:

a) SIDOR-group - SNRVZ.

- 1) The SNRVZ is connected in Germany to the IS-organization KORAVEC.
(soon)
An establishment of contact from our side would lead to collisions.
- 2) According to our informations the SIDOR-group has also IS-connections to French organizations through Lt.Col. Alexander MATUS.
- 3) The divergent forces and fights for power within the SNRVZ would be a permanent danger for a clean command of intelligence activities.

b) DURCANSKY-group - SOV.

- 1) On the IS-sector SOV is already connected with our org. through its deputies for Germany and Austria. DURCANSKY has forbidden his deputies to establish contact to other groups.
- 2) After clarification of the question how to exist in Germany DURCANSKY has decided to take up his residence in Germany, if possible in order to direct his political fight against Bolshevism and for the independence of the Slovakian people from here. His arrival is expected in Spring 1952.
The exact date chiefly depends on the possibility of finding a residence (procurement of a flat etc.)
- 3) The practical evaluation of IS-possibilities undoubtedly given through SOV in the direction of Cecho-Slovakia will not be particularly difficult owing to the centralization of this emigration group.
- 4) So/S/Cs has personal connections to DURCANSKY going back as far as 1935.
(necessary)
An atmosphere of mutual confidence for an establishment of contact would therefore be given.

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